

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are canceled herein. Claims 33-60 are added herein. Support for these additional claims may be found at least on p. 15, ln. 25 – p. 19, ln. 23 and Figures 2(B) + 3(B). Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added as a result of the claim amendments. Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration based on the arguments set forth below.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102***

Claims 1 and 13 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Nagano et al. (Japan 01-287269, hereinafter “Nagano”). Claims 1 and 13 are cancelled herein, and thus, Applicants respectfully submit that a discussion of the 35 USC §102(b) rejection is moot.

Claims 1, 13, 24, and 27-32 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Akiyama et al. (Japan 2000-057640, hereinafter “Akiyama”). Claims 1, 13, 24, and 27-32 are cancelled herein, and thus, Applicants respectfully submit that a discussion of the 35 USC §102(b) rejection is moot.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103***

Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 11, 15-17, 20, and 25 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Akiyama et al. (Japan 2000-057640, hereinafter “Akiyama”) in view of Hedgcoth (US 4,894,133, hereinafter “Hedgcoth”). Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 11, 15-17, 20, and 25 are cancelled herein, and thus, Applicants respectfully submit that a discussion of the 35 USC §103(a) rejection is moot.

Claims 12 and 21 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Akiyama et al. (Japan 2000-057640, hereinafter “Akiyama”) in view of Hedgcoth (US 4,894,133, hereinafter “Hedgcoth”) as applied to Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 11, 15-17, 20 and 25 above and still further in view of Mukai et al. (US 5,441,615, hereinafter “Mukai”). Claims 12 and 21 are cancelled herein, and thus, Applicants respectfully submit that a discussion of the 35 USC §103(a) rejection is moot.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Akiyama et al. (Japan 2000-057640, hereinafter “Akiyama”) in view of Hedgcoth (US 4,894,133, hereinafter “Hedgcoth”) as applied to Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 11, 15-17, 20 and 25 above and still further in view of Nasu et al. (US 5,326,637, hereinafter “Nasu”). Claim 23 is cancelled herein, and thus, Applicants respectfully submit that a discussion of the 35 USC §103(a) rejection is moot.

### ***Conclusion***

In view of the above, it is submitted that the Claims are in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested. Allowance of Claims 33-60 at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant’s undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-4160 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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